FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 DECEMBER 1986

Afghanistan

Kabul radio announced the appointment of new ministers of defense and foreign affairs 4 December. At the Defense Ministry, Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi replaced Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad, who was appointed first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers. The new foreign minister is Abdol Wakil, replacing Shah Mohammad Dost, who was appointed minister of state for foreign affairs and DRA ambassador to the United Nations. PDPA General Secretary Najibullah introduced Rafi to officials and officers at the Defense Ministry, the radio said, noting the party leader's remark that the outgoing minister played a "major role" in improving the department's activities and in strengthening the army's combat capability. However, new circumstances require a new approach, he stated, and the central apparatus of the ministry must spend most of its time with the armed forces.

At the Foreign Ministry, Council of Ministers Chairman Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand introduced Wakil to officials in a ceremony reported by the radio, and he praised the outgoing minister's "worthiness" and "outstanding services," noting that Dost has been assigned to another "crucial and responsible" duty. Regarding policy at the next round of Geneva talks, a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the radio said the DRA will participate with "complete good will" and will realistically exploit every opportunity to make progress toward a peaceful solution to the "events around Afghanistan."

Egypt

Public Prosecutor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jundi announced that the Supreme State Security Court will try 33 people on charges of forming an extremist religious organization which sought to overthrow the government, MENA reported. He said the group was planning violent action, stating that it organized combat and weapons training for its members, who included four armed forces officers.

Noting indications that the group was linked with the Jihad organization which assassinated President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, Al-Jundi disclosed that the group's leader was Ahmad Muhammad Samir, while its views were propagated at meetings and seminars by Shawqi 'Abd al-Raziq Ahmad al-Shaykh. The latter preached "extremist concepts" based on resistance to the government, renunciation of the system, provocation of Muslim-Christian differences, and holy war against the regime. Al-Jundi also said the defendants are accused of stealing weapons from the armed forces and of robbing Christian-owned shops. He noted that group members were under surveillance before being arrested, and MENA subsequently revealed that the group was first discovered in April, adding that it is an offshoot of the organization responsible for burning video clubs in February.

Lebanon: Camps War

The Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) accused the Amal Movement of failing to comply with an Iranian-sponsored cease-fire initiative, charging that Amal intensified its bombardment of Palestinian camps in Beirut 5 December, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. On the other hand, an Amal source cited by Beirut radio accused the Palestinians of violating the cease-fire, which had been approved by both Amal leader Nabih Birri and the PNSF leaders in Damascus. According to the radio, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam's plan stipulates that: "faithful forces" reopen the southern coastal road; Palestinians be allowed to continue "resistance" against Israel albeit under the supervision of a Lebanese-Palestinian committee; Palestinians retain their weapons but with no armed presence outside their camps.

On the military situation, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that 12 people were killed and 45 wounded in fighting 3-4 December. A PLO statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO said that the Israeli naval bombardment of Palestinian targets near Sidon caused casualties and that "barbaric and insane" Syrian shelling has destroyed three quarters of Shatila camp.

Israel

Bi'r Zayt Disturbances — Two students were killed and 11 were wounded when security forces opened fire to quell a disturbance at the West Bank university of Bi'r Zayt, Jerusalem radio reported. Commenting on the incident in a Jerusalem television interview, the IDF Central Command commander expressed regret over every death and injury, "even when the person involved is an Arab," but he added that a preliminary investigation into the affair has revealed that IDF soldiers behaved with "maximum restraint" and only opened fire after warning the demonstrators, who were hurling stones and bottles. In contrast, Bi'r Zayt staff members accused the soldiers of firing without advance warning, Jerusalem radio noted. A Jordanian official denounced the "unjust arbitrary" Israeli measures in a statement reported by Amman radio.

U.S.-Iran Affair — Israel will permit Ya'aqov Nimrodi, Al Schwimmer, 'Amiran Nir, and David Kimche to answer questionnaires in writing and to answer oral questions posed by a visiting U.S. investigator, but they will not be allowed to appear before investigating committees in the United States, Jerusalem television reported. Israeli leaders have agreed "in principle" to comply with a U.S. request to interrogate the Israelis involved in the affair, IDF radio noted earlier, but Israel will seek to ensure that its interests and those of the people questioned are not harmed.

Iran and the Gulf States

In "private talks" with Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait say that they have stopped aiding the Iraqi regime, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated during an interview with Tehran radio. He called on "younger" Gulf states to come to their senses, like their "older brother," adding that the oil which certain Gulf countries have sold on Iraq's behalf will be "shut off" in the near future.

Earlier, the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* cited the UAE president's announcement that the UAE will do its "duty" in the event of another attack on UAE oil installations by "any side or any country."

North African Affairs

Sudan — Responding to reports of recent Ethiopian air attacks on Sudanese villages, the foreign minister stressed that Sudan is capable of prompt retaliation, SUNA reported.

Bendjedid Tour — Following Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's talks in Libya, Tunis radio reported that he visited Tunisia for talks with the prime minister and other Tunisian officials.

Morocco — A Spanish consortium will sell military equipment to Morocco, according to a Spanish press report cited by Madrid radio.

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Keshtmand Introduces Foreign Affairs Minister
LD041819 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, today introduced to the personnel and employees of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Member of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Abdol Wakil who has been (?appointed) as the DRA minister of foreign affairs.

At this ceremony, Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, expressing appreciation for the worthy services of Member of the PDPA Central Committee Shah Mohammad Dost in the field of foreign policy, said:

[Read by announcer] Comrade Shah Mohammad Dost, as a politician and experienced diplomat, has accomplished worthy (?services) within and outside the country in the field of promoting relevant duties and foreign policy as the DRA minister of foreign affairs and has achieved great authority in the field of diplomacy.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: In consideration of his long experience and worthiness in the field of the country's foreign policy, Comrade Shah Mohammad Dost has been assigned to another crucial and responsible duty. The PDPA Central Committee Politburo expresses gratitude for the outstanding services of Comrade Shah Mohammad Dost.

Comrade Keshtmand pinned on Shah Mohammad Dost's chest the Medal of People's Friendship — approved for him by the Revolutionary Council Presidium in appreciation for his valuable services.

Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added: Comrade Abdol Wakil is an outstanding and veteran party cadre. He was engaged in active party work for a while and then assigned to diplomatic duty abroad. He enjoys the necessary experience in political and diplomatic affairs. We wish Comrade Abdol Wakil success in accomplishing the heavy duties allotted to him in relation to preparing ground for favorable international conditions for the broadening of the social pillars of national sovereignty and the implementation of the decisions of the 20th PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

Comrade Abdol Wakil then expressed gratitude for the great confidence of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and assured all he would not let down, even for a second, in the (?accomplishment) of the crucial and formidable duties allotted to him.

Comrade Shah Mohammad Dost expressed thanks for the great confidence of the party and government and promised to use all his ability and energy for further enhancement of the international prestige of the DRA in his new, responsible position.

The BIA correspondent reports that Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sarwar Yurish, recalling Comrade Shah Mohammad Dost's services, said he was sure that all DRA Foreign Ministry personnel would work (?harder) for the realization of party and government policy.

Najibullah Presents Mohammad Rafi
LD042336 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] This morning Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and supreme commander of the DRA Armed Forces, took part in a glorious meeting held on the occasion of introducing Member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo Comrade Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi as the DRA minister of defense.

After inspecting a guard of honor in the Defense Ministry headquarters, Comrade Najib took part in a meeting held in the conference hall of the Defence Ministry where he introduced Comrade Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi to officials of the Defense Ministry, generals, commanders, [word indistinct] political departments of the Chief of the General Staff headquarters of DRA Army units and companies. He recalled with appreciation the services of Candidate Member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo Comrade Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad in improving the activities of the Defense Ministry and enhancing the Army's combat capability.

Comrade Najib said: Comrade Nazar Mohammad has played a major role in improving the activities of the Defense Ministry and in enhancing the Army's combat capability. His services (?were appreciated) by presentation of badges and medals. He was granted the military rank of lieutenant general. Candidate Member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo Comrade Nazar Mohammad has been appointed to the high position of first vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers. We believe he will work actively, as before, in this position.

Comrade Najib added: The issue is not one of simple replacement. The fundamental point is that the solving of the issues of war and peace in a new manner and the successful accomplishment of duties upon which, to a large extent, the future of the homeland depends, is facing this major detachment of the revolution now being led by Comrade Mohammad Rafi.

Comrade Najib added: Under circumstances where an imperialist undeclared war is being continued against the DRA, we expect the central apparatus of the Ministry of Defense, the General Department of Political Affairs, the chief general staff, officer cadres, and all Army personnel, to profoundly perceive the new situation, duties, and demands of the leadership cadres; the idea of the increasing responsibility of reconstruction; and above all, the fact that under new circumstances work is to be (?carried out) in a new manner. The new circumstances stem from the commencement of the partial return of the limited military units of the Soviet Union to their country and the enhancement of the level of independence and preparedness in promoting the fight against the undeclared war by imperialist forces. [passage indistinct]

The central apparatus of the Ministry of Defense must spend most of its time with the forces among units and companies, assist

in solving practical issues, maintain contact with the personnel — above all with soldiers and NCO's — and anticipate and impose their will and action upon the enemy.

Comrades Major General Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of staff; (Lieutenant General Zabihollah Ziarmal, general head of Army political affairs; and Mostafa, secretary of the primary organization of [words indistinct], expressed gratitude for the care of the PDPA Central Committee, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, and General Secretary fo the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib, and on behalf of the Army personnel, they assured the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Comrade Najib of their efforts to restore nationwide peace and to foil [word indistinct] the undeclared war against the DRA.

A BIA correspondent reports that Comrade Brigidier General Mohammad Rafi expressed thanks for this great confidence expressed by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. He said: I will carry out this duty along with those who know (?what to do) in circumstances of war; who are able to fight and defeat the enemy — these servants of imperialism and reaction; those who love soldiers; who have fought together with the Sarandoy, state security services, and the forces of self-defense against the enemies; those who are able to make decisions independently and are answerable for it; and those who are faithful to the April Revolution, our beloved party, and the eternal Afghan-Soviet friendship.

The BIA correspondent adds that at the end of the ceremony Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, then expressed thanks for the earnest cooperation of the Ministry of Defense personnel during his time in office [words indistinct] and he wished Comrade Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi success in accomplishing his duties.

The BIA correspondent adds that Comrade Najib, accompanied by Comrades Mohammad Rafi, Gholam Faroq Yaqubi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of state security; Lt Gen Nazar Mohammad; Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of internal affairs; was warmly welcomed by the leadership delegation of the Ministry of Defense, heads of departments and generals of units and companies of the CGS [Chief General Staff] Headquarters, and personnel of political departments.

'Goodwill' To Be Shown in Talks With Pakistan

LD041523 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] In reply to a question from a BAKHTAR correspondent a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the following.

Continuing previous talks between the DRA and Pakistan, the third part of the second round of talks, seeking a solution to the events surrounding Afghanistan, is scheduled to be held in Geneva during the first half of February 1987. The DRA is determined that, while preserving its principled, flexible, and constructive stand, it will once again take part in these talks with complete goodwill; and continuing its past earnest endeavor, it is realistically exploiting every opportunity so that these talks for a peaceful solution to the events surrounding Afghanistan will also make further progress.

Armed Forces Hit Supply Base, Seize Weapons

LD042244 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1550 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] A large supply base belonging to the counterrevolutionaries at [name indistinct] area, Nazian District of Nangarhar Province was shattered as a result of the fatal blows of the heroic Armed Forces of the country.

A BIA military correspondent report that the heroic Armed Forces of the country, in the course of successful operations, recently crushed and punished a large band of counterrevolutionaries supplied with lethal weapons by their imperialist and reactionary masters and taught subversion by imperialist instructors outside the country.

The report adds that the band, under the instruction of their Western masters, had established a very large supply base at [name indistinct], a mountainous area with very difficult terrain. They had constructed depots, hideouts, trenches, and other engineering fortifications under the instructions of imperialist advisors and experts, where they had stored assorted weapons of subversion and terrorism for supplying other (?areas).

Under the orders of their Western masters, these criminals were disturbing the peaceful life of the people of Nangarhar by engaging in murder, plunder, and intimidation. However, our heroic and vigilant Armed Forces, in direct cooperation with the Nazian District inhabitants, foiled the designs of the counterrevolutionaries and their masters, proving once again that our Armed Forces are capable of eliminating the counterrevolutionary bands.

Prior to the combat operations, the report adds, the counterrevolutionary bands were claiming that their dens and supply base in (Marowlad) were invincible. A courageous assault by the Armed Forces' personnel surrounded the counterrevolutionaries and their resistance was shattered by fatal blows.

The Armed Forces seized 4,025 ground-to-ground missiles; 15 ground-to-ground missile-launching units; 9 mortars; 5 antiaircraft defense units and 9,294 shells; 62mm artillery, 2 radar units, 5 recoilless guns and 4,512 rounds; 25 DShK's; 1 [name indistinct] unit; 2 heavy machine guns; 7 rocket launchers and 7,752 rounds; 3,285 antivehicle mines; 1,954 antipersonnel mines; 6 communication units; 1 high-frequency communication unit; 3 mine (?detecting units); 2 mine-laying and mine-explosion units; 317 boxes of assorted equipment; 31 ammunition boxes; 8 engineering depots; 6 medicine depots; 7 clothing depots; 5 foodstuff depots; and 1 generator. They also destroyed 15 mortars; 14 air-defense weapons; 5 units for launching ground-to-ground missiles; 5 recoilless guns; 58 rocket launchers; 29 DShK's, 350 assorted weapons; 3 tons of foodstuffs; and some combat equipment.

This combat operation carried out in the Nazian District of (Marowlad) and Dowr Baba subdistrict, as well as other successful operations like those in the Herat and Qandahar Provinces, show that the country's heroic Armed Forces are capable of eliminating counterrevolutionary bands wherever they build their nests. The recent combat operations proved once again that the country's brave Armed Forces possess high combat readiness; are conscientiously defending the people, the country, and the revolution; and have unbreakable links with the people.

Restructured Administration Coming 'Shortly'

BK041557 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] President Ershad has said a new administrative system will come into force shortly to help fulfill the aspirations of the nation. Addressing the Jatiya Party workers in Dhaka today, he said steps have already been taken to restructure the present administration. Change of age-old administration has been necessitated to bring about economic emancipation of the common masses and to cater to the demands of an independent nation. The president said a strong political party is also necessary to activate the administrative machinery to implement the policies and programs of the government. With this end in view, the Jatiya Party will be organized into a stronghold at grassroots level to implement various policies and programs.

Soviet Ambassador Terms Relations 'Improved'

BK040700 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The Soviet ambassador says the relations between Dhaka and Moscow have improved in recent years following positive moves from both sides. At a news conference in Dhaka yesterday, Mr Belyayev described as good the present state of cooperation in technical and economic fields between the two countries. Referring to the Bangladesh foreign minister's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union, the ambassador said it will have positive impact on bilateral relations and foster closer cooperation on many international issues.

Iraq's 'Izzat Ibrahim Arrives for 4-Day Visit

BK030337 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
01100 GMT 3 Dec 86

[Excerpt] A grand welcome was accorded to vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq, Dr 'Izzat Ibrahim, when he arrived in Dhaka last night on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh. President Hussain Mohammad Ershad received the Iraqi vice chairman at Zia International Airport. Two children presented bouquets to the Iraqi leader and then he was led to the presentation line. School children also showered flower petals on the distinguished guest from Iraq. Vice President Justice A. K. M. Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ministers, chiefs of the three services of the Armed Forces, high civil and military officers, and members of the diplomatic corps were present at the airport. [passage omitted]

Views Relations With Prime Minister

BK050338 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Visiting Iraqi Vice Chairman [of the Revolutionary Command Council] 'Izzat Ibrahim and Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury have discussed about the strengthening of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Iraq in Dhaka. The discussions were held when the prime minister called on the Iraqi vice chairman at the state guest house [name indistinct] today. Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury thanked the Iraqi Government for extending necessary economic assistance to Bangladesh. Wishing welfare for the people of Iraq, the prime minister stressed the need for ending the fratricidal war between Iraq and Iran.

The Iraqi vice chairman has said bonds of friendship between the two countries have been laid on a solid foundation following the visit of President Ershad to Iraq. Religious Affairs Minister Maulana Abdul Mannan also called on Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim today.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Wisam Shawqat al-Zahawi, has had talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Wajid Ali Khan Panni. They discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. They felt there is ample scope for further strengthening economic, technical, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Special emphasis was laid on increasing and diversifying trade between Bangladesh and Iraq.

Concludes Visit; Departs

BK050755 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] The Iraqi vice chairman [of the Revolution Command Council], 'Izzat Ibrahim, left Dhaka this morning after 4-day official and good-will visit to Bangladesh. President Ershad bade farewell to the distinguished guest at the Zia International Airport. The Iraqi vice chairman took salute from the podium built at the airport tarmac. He also inspected a smartly turned out guards presented by contingents of the Armed Forces. Vice President A.K. M. Nural Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ministers, members of the diplomatic mission, high-ranking civil and military officials were also present at the airport. Earlier, school children waved miniature flags and colored ribbons as the Iraqi vice chairman passed through them to the airport tarmac to board his special aircraft.

Reaction to Violence in Punjab Continues

Gandhi: Prevent Communalization

BK041608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister has declared that another partition of the country will not be allowed under any circumstances. Whatever measures are necessary will be taken however tough and aggressive we may have to be. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking to a delegation of the High Court Bar Association of Chandigarh which called on him in New Delhi today. The prime minister called upon the people to beware of those trying to create a communal division. He said the attempt of the terrorists is to cause communal strife not only in Punjab but also in other parts of the country. They get their sustenance from outside India and their roots are elsewhere. But the positive side is that they have not been able to create the communal division which they have been planning. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said Sunday's ghastly incident near Hoshiarpur was perhaps one of worst in the series in the last 5 years. The terrorists are looking for a reaction not in Punjab but outside the state where Sikhs are in lesser numbers. In Punjab their attempt clearly is to get at the minority community. The prime minister said even though people get upset and angry, Sikhs and Hindus continue to protect each other. In rural areas it is people from outside a village who come and indulge in such acts and run away. Our responsibility as citizens must be to prevent any communalization of the situation by any side. Utmost courage and patience are needed, particularly by those living in the affected areas who have to bear the brunt of these acts. Mr Gandhi told the delegation that he has been assured by the state governor and the chief minister that they will be very tough with the terrorists.

Akali Dal-Longowal for Peace Efforts

BK041619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The working committee of the Akali Dal-Longowal has endorsed the steps of the Punjab government to ensure peace and communal harmony in the state. In its meeting held in Chandigarh today the committee said steps are necessary to deal with the elements endangering the unity and integrity of the country. It appealed to Sikhs all over the world to back the forces of peace and deplore the activities of the killers of innocent people. The meeting also urged all political parties and nonpolitical organizations to work for the promotion of communal brotherhood and to instill a sense of security among the people of the country.

Lok Dal Opposes Central Intervention

BK050938 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] The Lok Dal parliamentary party said in a resolution today that it is totally opposed to central intervention in Punjab. It said under the present situation president's rule in the state is no solution. The resolution condemned the antinational activities of terrorists and their continuous mass killings of innocent people. It also appealed to the people of Punjab to maintain peace and amity. The meeting of the parliamentary party was held this morning and Mr Birendra Verma presided.

Strike in Kanpur; 2 Killed in Punjab

BK041624 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] A bundh [strike] was observed in Kanpur today to protest against the recent violence in Punjab. All the main markets were closed but buses and taxis were plying. The central and state government offices functioned normally.

In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by six suspected terrorists in Chandpur village of Amritsar District last night. A police spokesman said in Chandigarh that the culprits managed to escape.

Chandigarh Declared 'Disturbed Area'

BK050259 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] The chief administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, Mr Sidhartha Shankar Ray, has issued a notification declaring the entire Territory of Chandigarh as disturbed area. It may be recalled that Amritsar and 16 subdivisions of Punjab were declared as disturbed areas under Section 3 of the Armed Forces Punjab and Chandigarh Special Powers Act 1983.

Curfew Reimposed in North Delhi

BK050303 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] Curfew has been reimposed from 0600 this morning in Chandnichowk area in north Delhi. The decision to this effort was taken by senior officials of Delhi police at a meeting last night.

'Extremists' Kill 13 in West Tripura 5 Dec

BK050855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] An armed gang of Tripura National Volunteers extremists shot dead 13 persons in (Kakrabari) colony in Khowai subdivision of west Tripura District last night. The Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, told our Agartala correspondent this morning that inspector general of police with additional force rushed to the spot. The deputy chief minister, Mr Dasaratha Deb, has also gone to the place of the incident. All efforts are being made to apprehend the extremists.

Iran's Khatami Continues Visit; Meets Junejo

BK041547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Iranian Minister of Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Khatami called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Islamabad today and conveyed to him the Iranian prime minister's good wishes on behalf of the Government of Iran to the Government and the people of Pakistan. The prime minister thanked his Iranian counterpart for this message and asked the Iranian minister to convey his message of good wishes to the Iranian prime minister. He stressed the need for frequent contacts between the two neighboring Islamic countries. The prime minister also briefed him about efforts being made to consolidate democratic process in Pakistan.

Dr Mohammad Khatami commended the restoration of democratic institutions, their functioning, and the efforts to mold society in accordance with Islamic principles. He extended an invitation to the prime minister from the Iranian prime minister to visit Iran. Mohammad Khan Junejo said he will avail himself of the first opportunity to visit Iran.

Meets Foreign, Education Ministers

LD042125 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Pakistan, Dec 4, IRNA — The visiting Iranian minister of Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance), Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, conferred with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan here Thursday. Expressing satisfaction over the Iranian delegation's visit, the Pakistani foreign minister hoped that it would help further expansion of relations between the two countries.

In another development Thursday, Khatami met with Pakistani Minister of Education Nasim Ahmad. In this meeting, which was also attended by some Pakistani Education and Foreign Ministry officials, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami referred to the importance of education in Islamic countries and suggested that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan exchange university students. Stating satisfaction over the delegation's presence in Pakistan, Nasim Ahmad welcomed Khatami's suggestion. The Pakistani education minister was invited, during the meeting, to visit Iran which was accepted.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami, heading a delegation, arrived in Pakistan for a five-day visit on December 2, and has so far met and conferred with the country's president General Ziaul Haq handing him over a message from his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i. Khatami has also met the Minister of Religious Affairs and Minorities Mir Khaji Tarin.

Education, Cultural Accords Reached

BK050342 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to promote further cooperation in the fields of information, culture, and education. An agreement to this effect was reached between visiting Iranian Islamic Guidance Minister Dr Seyyed Mohammad Khatami and Information and Broadcasting Minister Chaudhury Shujat Hussain in Islamabad today. The two sides also agreed to extend the agreement between the *Associated Press of Pakistan* and the Iranian news agency for another 3 years, and to continue the technical cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed to exchange television films, documentary films, radio programs, and mass media delegations, and also to extend technical and training facilities to each other.

In the educational field, there will be an exchange of scholars and both countries will provide teaching facilities to students of the 2 countries.

Measures Taken To Protect Nuclear Plants

BK050325 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Nov 86 p 1

[By Saeed Qureshi]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 22: President Ziaul Haq Saturday unequivocally declared that Pakistan has taken all the requisite measures to protect its nuclear installations against attack from any quarter.

The President said this while commenting on the Iraqi delegate's observation to the effect that Pakistan, in the backdrop of the attack on Iraqi nuclear reactor by Israel, should be on guard against the possible onslaught by her enemies.

The President was replying to questions of the mediamen in his chamber in the State Bank Building, on the conclusion of the third meeting of the OIC [ICO] Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation [Comstech].

In reply to a question concerning the Iranian delegate's desire for cooperation with Pakistan in nuclear, medicine, agriculture and other fields of development, President Zia offered such cooperation to all the member countries of the OIC including Iran.

He disclosed that some of the Islamic countries were already benefiting from Pakistan's achievements in the nuclear domain, which were purely for peaceful and developmental purposes.

The President expressed Pakistan's unconditional willingness for sharing nuclear potential and capabilities with the OIC member countries for the common good of the nation. [passage omitted]

Junejo Urges Locally Made Nuclear Equipment

BK050355 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Nov 86 p 1

[Excerpts] November 21: Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has directed the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC] to fabricate locally the equipment and spares required to advance the peaceful nuclear programme of the country.

He was talking to the Chairman and scientists of PAEC during his visit to the exhibition "Atoms for Development Expo 86" at Ferozepore Road here on Friday [21 November].

Punjab Governor Makhdoom Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, provincial ministers, WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] Chairman and Speaker of the Punjab Assembly were prominent among the visitors.

The PAEC Chairman, Munir Ahmed Khan, told the Prime Minister that the Commission had already acquired know-how to develop locally a number of spares used in the Karachi nuclear power plant. The locally manufactured spares, he added, cost only one-fourth of the cost of imported ones and thus the Commission was saving millions of rupees every year.

The Prime Minister was shown around all the stalls at which specimen of the achievements of the PAEC in the fields of agriculture, medicine, minerals and energy have been put on display.

Medical Centre: On a question by the Prime Minister, the PAEC Chairman told him that the Commission would set up one nuclear medical centre at Abbottabad and a second one at Karachi. The nuclear medical centre being constructed at Quetta would be completed during the next six months and was expected to start functioning by April next year, the Chairman said. [passage omitted]

Uranium Deposits: The Prime Minister was also briefed about the occurrence of uranium deposits in various parts of the country and how the Commission was exploring, refining and processing this mineral for use in the atomic reactor.

On another question by the Prime Minister, the Chairman PAEC said uranium was also found in Baluchistan.

Editorial Views Gorbachev Visit to India
BK050321 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Gorbachev in Delhi"]

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is leading a highpowered delegation to the Indian capital. His visit comes amidst preparations by the Indian army to conduct wide-scale military exercises in close proximity of Pakistan's borders. Pakistan, unsurprisingly, promises to figure prominently in Gorbachev's parleys with Rajiv.

While Pakistan has opposed Soviet military takeover of Afghanistan, India under the late Indira Gandhi went to the extent of justifying the Soviet military move (professions of non-alignment notwithstanding). Like a coquettish hard-to-get damsel, India has managed adroitly to remain an object of desire for both the superpowers without, however, entering into a binding nuptial knot. Thus far, India has been adept in avoiding the pitfalls of over-commitment. Its pretensions, however, in claiming for itself a lofty moral pedestal cannot survive a rational examination. India denies Pakistan what it arrogates to itself, i.e. expansion of army, military concord with a superpower, and weaponisation of its nuclear programme.

If our policy-makers had put more emphasis on building up inner strength and in developing strong domestic institutions on a democratic footing, they would be more secure and less easily rattled by the spectre of big power machinations affecting negatively the balance and dynamics of Indo-Pakistani relations.

Paper Views Gorbachev Statement on Afghan Issue
BK050323 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Gorbachev Strikes a Hopeful Note"]

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's latest statement on Afghanistan is a conciliatory as well as timely gesture. He supported a non-aligned and independent status for Afghanistan, denied that the Soviets intended to stay there forever or had any expansionist designs in the region and expressed the hope that the Geneva talks would soon lead to a political solution of the Afghan problem.

The above statement, linked with the earlier withdrawal of 8000 Soviet troops and removal of Babrak Karmal, augurs well for the current efforts to resolve the Afghan issue. However, it remains to be seen how far Mr Gorbachev's professions are actually reflected in the Soviet policies on Afghanistan. Pakistan, on its part, should appropriately respond to the Soviet gestures, shun outside influences and take a position that is in the best interests of the country.

DAWN: 'Time To Do Business' With Kabul
BK050613 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Nov 86 p 5

[Editorial: "Afghanistan: Time To Move Ahead"]

[Text] The UN Secretary-General's special representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, who has been mediating in the proximity talks on Afghanistan, is reaching Islamabad today to start another diplomatic shuttle aimed at breaking the deadlock over certain key elements of a negotiated settlement. This confronts us with the challenge of taking "bold political decisions" which, Mr Cordovez laments, have been "postponed again and again" by the parties concerned. The decisions in question relate to the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and its "inter-relationship" with the process of "non-interference" and "non-intervention" and the return of the refugees. With everything else *in* place — the three instruments already agreed upon and finalised — the parties have just to "walk the extra mile" necessary to clinch the deal. This presupposes hard rethinking on our side. The changing pattern of developments on our borders and the economic and social damage that we have incurred as a consequence of our involvement in the Afghan conflict are there for all to see. It has reached a point where our own economic and political health may be put at greater risk unless the prospect of a speedy resolution of the conflict brightens. It would not be realistic for us to assume that we can sit it out until the other party accedes to our terms. There has to be greater flexibility in terms of give-and-take on both sides. We may be right in expecting the other side to place its cards on the table on the issue of withdrawal of troops. But to induce it to do so we should also try to meet it halfway by dealing imaginatively with the various stages of the interlocking process

of stopping "interference and intervention". It is a well-established principle of diplomacy to consider the interests of the adversary while one tries to safeguard one's own national interests. All this calls for a fresh look at our approach and a firm decision on the fourth instrument of the proposed settlement.

In this context, there is a lesson to learn from the flexibility shown by some of our close friends. Both the U.S. and Canada have lifted the ban (on the export of wheat to the Soviet Union and the fishing by Russian trawlers in the U.S. waters) they had imposed on the Soviet Union because of Afghanistan. This has been done in pursuance of the "national interests" of the two countries. The U.S. and some Western countries have also forgotten for a while what they have consistently thought of as the "terrorist" and "villainous" proclivities of the Iranian revolution. They are now known to have been doing business with Tehran. The transactions include the supply of arms, equipment and cash — enough to take one's breath away. This, too, has "national interests" as its justification. Therefore, whatever may have been our view of the regime in Kabul until now, it is time to do business with it. There are reports that the two superpowers exchanged notes on their respective conditions for a political settlement of the Afghan issue at their mini-summit in Reykjavik. They differed, but this was the first time that they put down their terms in writing. They may reconcile their differences if and when it suits them. But the moral of all this puts a great responsibility on our decision-makers: to move forward before we completely lose our initiative to the superpowers. Any settlement arrived at as a result of a broader agreement between the two superpowers can hardly be expected to conform to our vital interests as we see them.

Paper Views Gandhi's 'Normalization' Stance

BK050331 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Rajiv's Real Problem"]

[Text] Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in his Press conference after the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Summit has listed three 'problem areas' with Pakistan which he thinks are linked with the process of normalisation between the two countries. Pakistan's nuclear programme has always been an irritant for the Indian leaders who have constantly harped on this theme in order to justify their military build-up and to extract concessions from both the superpowers. Accusations of Pakistan's involvement in the Sikh agitation have also been repeated off and on, whenever the situation in the Punjab has deteriorated on account of bungling by the Indian government. But drug trafficking, the third source of 'anxiety' for Rajiv Gandhi, is a new addition and a surprising one.

Incidentally, the stance taken by the Indian Prime Minister closely approximates American official concerns. Thus, both ally and adversary are barking up the same tree. This signifies a failure of foreign policy in that Pakistan is left exposed in the vise of a nutcracker. Notwithstanding the need for an improvement of Pakistan-India ties, there is nothing that Pakistan could do to allay Rajiv Gandhi's apprehensions. If he is not convinced by Prime Minister Junejo's assurances, he should not expect Pakistan to abandon a programme which symbolises its honour and dignity as a sovereign nation. On this consensus-backed issue, Pakistan has withstood the American pressure and Rajiv Gandhi will have t adopt a more rational attitude if he is genuinely interested in creating peace and good-will in the region. The Indian Prime Minister has taken a number of bold initiatives in order to resolve major conflicts in his own country, but he is still bogged down in the legacy of hegemonism in the conduct of foreign relations.

The SAARC Summit Declaration has called for 'common approaches'; Rajiv Gandhi in his capacity as its new Chairman should rise above the narrow framework and petty considerations of his domestic politics and act like a statesman, so that the nascent regional cooperation can blossom. The creation of SAARC's permanent secretariat and election of a secretary general are positive developments, but in the ultimate analysis the success of the body depends on how India and Pakistan can learn to co-exist on the basis of sovereign equality. In the context of Pakistan-India ties the real problem is the perception of the Indian leaders that the small neighbours should become its satellites. The sooner this is changed the better it would be for the entire region.

Massing of Indian Troops, Training Camp Viewed

BK050327 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Nov 86 p 6

[Text] Thatta, Nov 25: A heavy patrolling by the Indian armed forces including naval units equipped with most modern sophisticated weapons has been reported by residents from the Rann of Kutch area in preparation for the massive military exercises which will continue till March-April next year.

According to villagers residing in Apan, Dehn, Adhi, Waro, Musafar Khan, Rupa, Mari, Girarai and Ahmad Rajo villages bordering India in the Rann of Kutch the unusual build-up of the Indian armed forces has continued since October.

The Indian forces have been increasing gradually and the patrolling along the Pakistan border was being done day and night.

Residents of these villages stated that they have never before seen the massing of Indian troops on the border in such a large number. They also reported hearing loud sounds of gunfire from across the border.

Fishermen of K.T. Bunder and Shah Bunder coastal areas told PPI correspondent Shabbir Ahmed Noori that they had seen an unusual movement of Indian naval ships in large numbers over the past few weeks in the area. This was also for the first time that such a large number of Indian naval ships had been spotted in the high seas.

Meanwhile, according to a report from Umarkot in the Thar Parkar District, the Indian Government has set up three different categories of desert force in Rajasthan and Gujarat, namely Janata Force, Shanti Force and Guided Force.

PPI correspondent at Umarkot, Abdul Majeed Hussaini, quoting reports reaching there from across the border, stated that about

one lakh personnel had been recruited during the past few months in these newly set up forces. Most of those recruited were Hindus who escaped from Sind during the 1965 and 1971 wars between the two countries.

It is learnt that a training camp for guerillas has been set up at Tehsil Chathan under the leadership of Laxman Singh, ex-Parliamentary Secretary in West Pakisan Government, who has now settled in India.

It is further learnt that a similar guerilla training camp has also been set up in Maharashtra in Gujarat State. It may be recalled that Laxman Singh was leader of 'Rahbar Dasta which attacked Chachar, Mithi and Umarkot Tehsils of Thar Parkar District during the 1971 war. — PPI

Friday Prayers on Victory Over 'Political Ploy'
LD051226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] Religious-political Friday prayer ceremonies were held throughout the country today. Tehran's citizens attended Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares and observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his second Friday prayers sermon the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, referred to the departure fo the 100,000-strong Mohammad Corps to the battlefronts and said: This corps's movement toward the battlefronts is indicative of the immense power of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in mobilizing forces, of the fact that we are not being wearied by the war, and that the end of the war can only be secured through the downfall of the Iraqi ruling regime.

Referring to the vast efforts of world arrogance and the baneful propaganda carried by foreign mass media with the purpose of concealing the greatness of the movement by the 100,000-strong Mohammad Corps toward the warfronts, the president of the Republic addressed the countries in the Persian Gulf basin by saying: We do not threaten a country which does not intend to wage war against us, but rather we warn and admonish it to give up its support for Saddam, since backing Saddam will not bring you any benefits.

After 6 years of war our nation enjoys such preparedness that it dispatches to the fronts a great 100-000-strong corps within a few weeks and there is no doubt whatsoever that the longer the passage of time, the greater our fighting preparedness. Our nation will make similar moves wherever it senses a danger or threat. Under no circumstances will it compromsie with the enemy. It is ready to deliver its blows to the body of the Zionist enemy and it will perform this task.

Continuing his second sermon and referring to the fact that the disgrace suffered by the U.S. leadership in their efforts to establish relations with Iran continues to remain a hot topic in the world political and news quarters, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i said: The fundamental issue is that a superpower, notwithstanding all its might and power, has covertly sought an independent, revolutionary country and begged for the establishment of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic, leaning on its divine system, has pushed back the U.S. superpower in rejection, whereupon the U.S. leaders, finding themselves sharply disconcerted by these developments, have resorted to a political propaganda stratagem in order to relegate to oblivion this important, fundamental issue which has increased the prestige and worth of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world. Toward this very end, with their lying propaganda hue and cry, they have raised the worn out issue of the sale of U.S. and Israeli weapons to Iran in order to be able, as it were, to harm our good name and prestige. And here, on the side of such regimes as Egypt and Jordan, which have been reduced to pathetic states, now stand certain big powers whose hands are dipped to the elbow in the blood of our nation and of Iraq and who have raised their voices as to the reason for the delivery of U.S. arms to Iran.

However, this political and propaganda stratagem, which constitutes one of the popular ploys of world arrogance, met with a fiasco and world arrogance was disgraced throughout the world. This incident was in fact not only tantamount to an Iranian victory over the United States but rather our nation's genuine victory over a political ploy of the superpowers and world powers.

The world governments and nations should know that they should not descend to the bottom of the pit hanging from the rotten rope of the United States and similar countries since world arrogance has greater need of the Third World nations than the other way round!

Expressing regret for the current clashes between the Palestinians and Muslims in southern Lebanon, Tehran's Friday imam said in his second sermon: The Palestinians and Muslims in southern Lebanon have common enemies who are awaiting an opportunity to destroy them and immobilize the Palestine movement. One of the factors behind these clashes is the provocations by the so-called leader of the Palestinians, who has himself fled from the warfront and is amusing himself with political games. Our counsel to the Muslims in southern Lebanon and to the Palestinians is that they should point all their guns at the breast of the usurping Zionist regime and its apologists in Lebanon.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamane'i thanked those Palestinian groups who have accepted the Islamic Republic of Iran's cease-fire plan and emphasized: We condemn any clash between the Palestinians and the Muslims in Lebanon and call for their monolithic unity against the regime occupying Jerusalem and its supporters.

Khamene'i Addresses Division Bound for War
LD041314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The specialist combat and cultural division of the great Corps of Mohammad — may Allah's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion — comprising 2,000 clergymen and 1,000 educationists and university academics, named the Baqir al 'Ulum division [an Islamic scholar-saint] — may peace be upon him — left for the battlefronts against world arrogance in order to succour and instruct the Islamic combatants this morning after ceremonies addressed by President of the Republic Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

According to a Central News Unit report, in a speech during the ceremonies the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The movement to the warfronts by the combatants of the Mohammad Corps and the cultural division of clergymen has demonstrated to the world that Islam is growing, burgeoning, and strengthening at a time when recent events and incidents concerning world arrogance speak of their disruption, emasculation, and a move toward their eclipse.

Referring to the fact that the seminarists and clergymen are actively present at the side of the people in all scenes, including on the fronts of the imposed war, Mr Khamene'i emphasized: The seminarists and clergymen should use the warfronts for a better understanding of religion, since it is only there that a man

can gain complete religious insight through mixing with pious, self-sacrificing combatants and observing the traces of faith coupled with action and acts of self-immolation by youth enamoured of martyrdom and the role of faith in securing victory.

Referring to the vast propaganda campaign by world arrogance aimed at sowing dispair and despondency among the deprived nations of the world and saying that another task of the clergy is to engender and strengthen the spirit of resistance in the nation and the Islamic combatants, the president of the Republic added: We should daily generate hope among the various strata of the people that the system of the Islamic Republic is daily blossoming and progressing.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The imposed war is important to us for the reason that Islam's future, and sustaining the hope which has been created in the hearts of the world's deprived nations, depends on it; and through securing victory in this war we should bring hope to the world's deprived nations in their struggle against and triumph over the superpowers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Cited on U.S. Arms Sales

NC051433 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5 (AFP) — Iran has been able to buy U.S. arms through middlemen "for the past five or six years," but direct sales from the United States have comprised just one planeload, as President Ronald Reagan has stated, a senior Iranian official said Friday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Parliament and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's personal representative on Iran's Upper Defense Committee [Supreme Defense Council], said the intermediaries had provided all sorts of weaponry, "including (U.S.-built) F-4 and F-5" combat aircraft obtained from many countries, including Europe. The fact that these countries had agreed to indirect deliveries of arms showed they recognised Iran's strategic importance and acknowledged the strength of the Islamic Revolution, he said.

The controversial May 28 arms delivery to Tehran by former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane showed "that the delivery was approved by the U.S. Government," he said. Mr McFarlane was accompanied [by] a planeload of military supplies in a purported effort to enhance the U.S. position with moderates in the Iranian leadership and secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon. President Reagan insists that this has been the United States' only weapons sale to Iran.

Mr Hashemi-Rafanjani denied that Israel had played a role as intermediary in any arms deal with Iran. "Everyone knows that Iran is the most hostile country towards Israel," he said. "The Isrelis are not unaware of this, which is why they would never accept to put any weapon in our hands."

In other comments, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani vowed that Iran would carry out its threat to launch an attack on Iraq by the year-end that would "clarify" the six-year-old Gulf conflict. Iran this week completed a seven-day campaign to mobilise public support for its war effort. Iranian preparations for a "final offensive" against Iraq have reportedly been in progress for several months, but there has been no indication as to when the attack will take place.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed satisfaction that France, under the eight-month-old government of Jacques Chirac, had shifted in its position towards Iran. He was also conciliatory towards Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, recently suspected by Iran of having helped Iraq in its long-range air attacks on Iranian oil targets. There was hope that these countries will become "reasonable" as the "big brothers" who support them had become, he said, in apparent references to changes in Western policies towards Iran. "We hope that conditions will present themselves that we can have relations with them based on coexistence, friendship, and cooperation."

On Gulf Oil, War's Future

NC050714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council met last night to study plans for the country's defense. At the end of the session, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, granted an interview to our correspondent. He discussed the council's program for the country's defense; future projects for our sacred defense; the role in the imposed war of the massive Corps of Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him; and the Iraqi regime's recent plots.

Mr Hasehmi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative and spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, noted in the interview: The Persian Gulf states should distance themselves from the Iraqi regime. As their older brother has come to his senses, the younger ones, too, should do the same. He stated: The oil which certain Persian Gulf countries have sold on Iraq's behalf will be shut off in the near future.

Turning to recent developments in the region, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared: We have told the people that we will determine the outcome of the war this year by inflicting mortal blows on the Iraqi regime. Despite the assistance Iraq has received from many countries, we expect its patrons to lose hope thanks to our crushing strikes, and to pave the way for the overthrow of the Ba'thist party. He continued: The backing provided by some of these countries — Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, for instance — was more blatant at the start of the conflict. Today in their private talks with us, they say they have stopped their aid to the Iraqi regime.

In another part of the interview, Mr Hasehmi-Rafsanjani noted: We believe the war can be settled only by punishing the aggressor and that our future operations at the front will force Saddam's mentors to come to their senses and will open the road for an end to the conflict. He pointed out: Our upcoming operations will clarify the future course of the war. The French prime minister and a number of U.S. officials have admitted that Iraq was the aggressor. They have also expressed their belief that this regime can no longer be propped up. Thus, Iraq's future and the overthrow of the Ba'thist regime have come into clearer focus.

He said: Acknowledging the fact that Saddam and the Ba'thist party began the fighting will lay the groundwork for their punishment as the aggressor.

Referring to the attack by Iraqi aircraft on a UAE oil platform, the spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council stated: We find this very odd. At first we thought the raid was accidental. But the second time, the Iraqi planes came out solely to strike the UAE oil facility. That was strange. The Iraqi regime might have done it to hurt our relations with the Persian Gulf states or to create unrest in the region and set the stage for superpower intervention. The imam's representative added: We are quite suspicious of this Iraqi act and we feel it was done to affect the war, or for specific motives now being formulated.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani explicitly denied Iraq's allegations that civilian areas in Sayyid Sadiq had been hit by the artillery of our Islamic fighters. He pointed out: According to our standing orders at the front, cities are to be attacked only in retaliation. Even that is done only after advance warning, and affects only industrial, military, and economic targets in Iraqi cities. He went on: Since nothing has been said about this recently, such an allegation cannot be true unless during an exchange of fire between the two sides a few rounds struck some civilian areas as well. At any rate, the possibility that Iraq is lying is great.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, also touched on future plans in the war and the departure for the front of the massive Corps of Mohammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him. Plans are decided on at the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters. With the authorities vested by the imam, as far as the preparation of these units is concerned, virtually everything is foreseen, and with the deployment of forces, all is in readiness. The spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council then referred to the topics raised at the group's meeting last night and remarked: During the meeting, representatives of the Armed Forces and the corps discussed national defense. It was decided to increase the possibilities for an all-country defense. In short, delegates from the Armed Forces and corps gave their views on air defense and decisions were made.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Reviews Programs

NC041133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in an interview with correspondents the deputy agriculture minister stated that during the first 6 months of the current year [21 March-22 September 1986], more than 35,000 hectares of land were allotted to applicants by the Ministry of Agriculture's People's Participation Office for agricultural, forestry and pastureland, fisheries and marine, [word indistinct] and agro-industrial projects. He also said that during the next few months 600,000 hectares will be divided up and allocated to applicants in 18 provinces.

He pointed out that the population is growing daily and that food requirements will increase in the next decade; an annual growth rate in agriculture and animal husbandry of 7 percent will be necessary. He said that in view of this, the Ministry of Agriculture has set up special units to encourage investment and people's participation in the eight provinces of Khuzestan, Khorasan, Fars, Hormozgan, Sistan va Baluchestan, Markazi, Ilam, and Kerman, and to identify untapped resources, study (?effective) use of talents, increase producers' incomes, create jobs, and expand agriculture-linked industries. These units will identify potential and under-exploited resources, specify fields for investment and the extent and volume of various activities in each province, divide and survey particular areas of land, and (?indicate infrastructural projects), taking into account the climatic conditions and agricultural situation of each area. He added that a supreme committee has been set up at the Agriculture Ministry, which will supervise progress, encourage popular participation, and (?deal with) land affairs. It has also been agreed that the People's Participation Office will implement development projects in the areas of land in question during the coming year.

On the country's existing resources, the deputy agriculture minister said: Research has shown that less than one-third of the land and one-fifth of the water in the country are being used. The (?1.3) million hectares of commercial forests in the north contain 300 million cubic meters of timber. Each year we produce a little less than 1.4 million cubic meters of wood; this figure should reach 4 million cubic meters.

(?Meanwhile), on the basis of existing programs, fishing catches are expected to total between 40,000 and 70,000 tons. Under proper management, up to 400,000 tons of fish could be taken from the waters of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman alone. This could feed the people, produce animal and bird feed, and be used in industrial products.

Discussing the identification and allocation of land, he said: The committee (?for propagating) agriculture will identify land in each province and will (?classify) it as agricultural, forestry and pastureland, fisheries and marine, animal husbandry, or agro-industrial land. It will coordinate activities with the Ministries of Industry and Power and with the country's banks, and will specify particular projects, identify water resources, and extend credits on a priority basis. Preference will be given to graduates in agriculture and persons with experience followed by those willing to invest in agriculture.

Captured Iraqi Officers' Express Support

NC050944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
GMT 0430 5 Dec 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that 70 senior Iraqi commanders captured by the fighters of Islam in various operations have issued a resolution at the close of a large seminar on unity and loyalty in the (Tariq al-Quds) camp. The resolution expresses allegiance to the imam of the nation and support for the Supreme Assembly for Islamic Revolution in Iraq. It appeals to all members of the Iraqi Armed Forces to see the situation at the front as it truly is and to recognize the inevitable liquidation of the Zionist regime ruling in Baghdad. It notes that Iraqi troops should not kill themselves, but should seek asylum in the Islamic Republic of Iran before the start of decisive actions by the forces of Islam, which they should join.

In the resolution, these captured senior Iraqi commanders again call on officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to consent to their repeated requests to take part in the war of right versus wrong. This would allow them to do their duty to Islam and to Muslims.

The document asks the world's Muslims, drawn as they are from various nationalities, to answer the Islamic Republic's call for unity, and to set their differences aside.

Turning to the crimes committed by the regime occupying Jerusalem in the occupied territories and by the Zionist regime in Baghdad, the Iraqi commanders condemn the support as well as the arms and other materiel the superpowers have provided to these two inhuman and anti-Islamic regimes. These two regimes have common objectives and seek the liquidation and destruction of Islam and Muslims. The Iraqi officers note that armed Jihad represents the only way to save homeless Muslim Palestinians. They term any political movements professing the same aims as a deception of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

In addition, the resolution denounces the conduct of reactionary states in the region and their failure to adopt an Islamic stance toward Israel. It also appeals to the Islamic countries to form a common military organization which would include ground forces, as well as a navy and air force. This legion would then confront the regime occupying Jerusalem and would be used to liberate that dear city.

At the end of the resolution, the senior Iraqi commanders express their support for Islamic liberation movements in various parts of the world, and especially in Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Egypt, and the Philippines. They voice their gratitude for the Islamic Republic's humane and Islamic treatment of POW's. They also state their hope to see the day when all Muslim forces, once united, will rise to save dear Jerusalem, and give them the chance to greet each other in that city.

The report notes that at the seminar's various sessions, which were also attended by a number of captured Iraqi pilots, Major General (Dakhil 'Ali al-Hilali); Staff Colonel (Khatab 'Ummar Najm), commander of the 96th Infantry Brigade; Staff Col (Sardar Baha'eddin 'Arif), commander of the 1st Brigade; and Staff Col (Nazar Sahib Shakir), who replaced the commander of the 96th Infantry Brigade, all expressed their thanks for the humane and Islamic behavior of the Islamic forces toward its prisoners and for the facilities provided to Iraqi prisoners in their camps. Listing the Islamic Republic's legitimate rights and stating the truth, namely, that the Zionist Iraqi regime fomented the war on orders from the archcriminals, all of them highlighted the exceedingly low morale of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the certain defeat of the regime ruling Iraq.

It should be noted that a large number of the officers participating in the seminar were among those the propaganda machine of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime claimed were killed by the fighters of Islam after being captured. It was on this pretext that the Iraqi regime resorted to extensive propaganda, including the dedication of monuments in various parts of Iraq to the commanders in question.

3 Brigades From Khorasan Depart for Fronts

NC050819 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Mashhad, 3 brigades of combat specialists from the Khorasan Province construction jihad support staff, who have been assembled as the Ansar Brigades, left yesterday for the fronts of the war of right against wrong. They did so as part of the Mohammad Rasul 'Allah caravan.

Shelling of Iraqi Residential Areas Denied

LD041525 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 4 IRNA — Spokesman of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) strongly denied Thursday the Baghdad regime's claim that residential areas in the Iraqi town of Sayyid Sadiq were shelled by Iranian artillery. He termed the claim "an utter lie", adding that such allegations are aimed at justifying the recent Iraqi crimes committed against Iran's inhabited quarters in Khuzestan and Bakhtaran Provinces, and are intended to divert public opinion.

Referring to the UN representative's visit to residential areas in the said provinces, which were bombarded by Iraqi warplanes last week inflicting scores of civilian casualties, the spokesman noted that the recent claim made by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq is actually to overshadow its own carnage.

Communique Says Basra Combat Equipment Damaged

LD041634 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 4 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 4, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained considerable losses and damage during Wednesday and Thursday when their rallying points and combat engineering equipment in the Basra theatre came under heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants, according to the daily military communique issued here Thursday. The 2,675th communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces also said that the Iranian defenders checked all enemy activities in the southern fronts inflicting effective blows on them.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces, maintaining the upper hand in the western and southern fronts, halted Iraqi movements and smashed several group bunkers and dug-outs.

An Iraqi patrol unit, attempting to penetrate the Iranian forces' defensive lines in the Kharratha theatre of the western front, was immediately forced to flee with heavy losses Wednesday.

In the Ilam and Bakhtaran operational regions, at least four Iraqi vehicles and several armament emplacements were set ablaze. The communique further added that the combatants of Islam, defending their positions and carrying out patrol missions in the northwestern fronts, barraged enemy strongholds in the Haji 'Umran, Sar Dasht, and Marivan during the afore-mentioned period. In these operations, some Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and a number of bunkers were demolished.